



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, December 17, 2012

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-0055)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chair Geneva Berger, Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg, Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang, Commissioner Dr. La-Doris McClaney, Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq., Commissioner Sandra Rudnick, Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW and Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell

Excused: Commissioner Ann E. Franzen and Commissioner Daphne Ng

Call to Order. (12-5693)

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introduction of December 17, 2012 Meeting attendees. (12-5694)

Self-Introductions were made.

2. Approval of the December 17, 2012 Meeting Agenda. (12-5695)

On motion of Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, seconded by Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Franzen and Ng, being absent), this item was approved.

3. Approval of the minutes from the Meeting of December 3, 2012. (12-5696)

On motion of Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq., seconded by Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Franzen and Ng, being absent), this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

4. Chair's report for December 17, 2012 by Genevra Berger, Chair. (12-5697)

Chair Berger reported the following:

- **Dr. Harriette F. Williams retired from the Commission for Children and Families. During her 16-year tenure on the Commission she has been an advocate for education and relative care. Harriette Williams chaired the Commission's Relative Taskforce Committee in 1999. In February of 2000, the Board of Supervisors accepted recommendations provided by the Taskforce. Harriette Williams oversaw the implementation of these recommendations. The Commission is indebted to Harriette Williams for the many years of dedication to children and families of Los Angeles County. The Commission will miss her. Commissioners Biondi and Curry will be hosting a luncheon honoring Dr. Williams.**

Commissioner Rudnick added that Harriette Williams had always been the voice of common sense and reason for the Commission.

- **On behalf of the Commission a special thanks and appreciation was extended to staff for their continued support throughout the year.**

By common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

5. DCFS Director's report for December 17, 2012 by Philip Browning, Director, DCFS. (12-5709)

Director Browning reported the following:

- **There are several holiday events for children that DCFS staff is participating in. Some of the time allotted to these events is done on a voluntary basis.**
- **The reorganization of the department is underway. One of the primary goals of the reorganization is to increase support staffing for line operations.**

- The Katie A. Panel was recently in Los Angeles. In response to concerns with the first draft of the Los Angeles County Claiming Manual, a federal hearing granted an extension to allow more time to rewrite the Manual. There were several people identified to assist in the rewriting of the Manual.
- The Title IV E Waiver (Waiver) application is underway; DCFS anticipates completion by the end of this year. Los Angeles County prepared a report that will be submitted as an attachment to the State's application.

In response to questions posed by the Commission regarding Katie A. funding, Director Browning responded with the following:

- Other counties do not have similar Katie A. Exit Criteria as Los Angeles County and are able to draw down more funding for Foster Care Treatment from Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) due to their jurisdiction having a broader definition of billable healthcare activities. The Department of Mental Health is concerned that if the definition is broadened to allow more billable activities, the County may not have the funding available to match the EPSDT funding.
- As a result of the net County costs involved in the original Katie A. settlement, there is an effort to increase federal participation and eligibility of billable activities in order to lessen the level of Katie A. funding needed. The Katie A. new State settlement emphasizes the Core Practice Model which is being implemented in Los Angeles County. This model's structure involves child and family teams that may include a Mental Health Worker. In the past, it was questionable whether the Mental Health Worker's time was billable to EPSDT; however, the new Claiming Manual intends to clarify that this cost was billable to EPSDT. DCFS is hopeful that with this clarification and the healthcare reform, there will be an opportunity for additional federal EPSDT funding.
- A recent Board motion was added to the County's State Legislative Agenda to support legislation that develops or enhances programs and services for victims of child sex trafficking. Sex trafficking is a nationwide issue that is being realized. Debate remains as to whether keeping children involved in sex trafficking in a locked facility is a violation of their rights.

Commissioner Curry added that the recent tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut emphasizes the importance of Mental Health Services for Transition Age Youth. Statistics show that the majority of school shootings are caused by individuals under the age of 25.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

III. PRESENTATION

6. Presentation on the DCFS Strategic Plan Objectives and CSIU Trend Analysis.

- Amy Naamani, DCFS Program Development/Strategic Initiative Director (12-5710)

Ms. Naamani introduced herself and provided a brief background of her expertise in the area of children and families and reported the following:

- **The Children's Services Investigation Unit (CSIU) Trend Analysis was released in April of 2012. The analysis was a combination of an in depth look at 15 child fatality cases and overall evaluation of 200 cases. Through this analysis, patterns emerged which lead to focus on the following four areas of recommendations:**
 - 1. Front end work and emergency response are critical points. Front end work is very different from work on the back end and requires a special skill. Preparing Social Workers for front end work is necessary.**
 - 2. Ongoing assessment of existing programs, services, and policies to ensure that the strategies are still working and meeting the intended objectives are key.**
 - 3. Instilling the concept of "it takes a village", by bringing experts from different areas together to create a continuum of care for children and families.**
 - 4. In order to support the processes, evaluation of human resource practices is needed. Performance management is challenging with such a large agency with varying practices.**

The implementation of the CSIU recommendations and Strategic Plan began in August of 2012. The objectives of the Strategic Plan are in line with the CSIU recommendations.

- **Currently there are approximately 50 objectives in the DCFS Strategic Plan that range from being very specific to general objectives. Objective Teams have been formed and recently, Team Leaders have been identified. The objectives represent a collaborative effort on the part of staff and external stakeholders. The approach to implementing the Strategic Plan is to create an infrastructure to support and drive the efforts. This entails a Program Management Office (PMO), which is comprised of individuals that are tasked with the tracking, monitoring and management of the objectives to ensure timely progress.**
- **Focusing on the following three primary areas of the Strategic Plan will collaterally benefit some of the other objectives.**
 1. **Instilling the philosophy of the Core Practice Model approach in daily work which involves engagement, teaming, assessment, planning, intervention, tracking, and adapting creates a continuum of care. Once a practice model has been defined for the worker, an implementation plan will be developed. This is a long-term process.**
 2. **Creating a “DCFS University” type of training that supports the Core Practice Model and represents the full spectrum of work is essential. Within the training, there will be specialization and additional training for supervisors and managers in performance management as well as Executive development to ensure succession planning. The University of Southern California is providing input on how to build an effective training curriculum.**
 3. **Rewriting the Policy Manual to differentiate and define policy, best practices and procedures is also key. A consultant funded through Casey Family Programs is assisting in the rewriting of the manual which is scheduled for completion in July of 2014.**

Additionally, focusing on the concept of “it takes a village” through collaboration to create an integrated and coordinated system of care is an essential piece of meeting the objectives. In order to achieve this there is an effort to create a Child Welfare Agency Advisory Council comprised of County and provider partners.

The first objective team leader meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2012.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Naamani responded with the following:

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- To address concerns of continuity, having a PMO in place ensures continuity and constant monitoring of the strategic objectives regardless of any changes in leadership.
 - We are currently working with Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and initiating a partnership with Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to gain access to their database in order to be better informed on the educational status of DCFS youth.
 - To address the Commission's concerns about the objectives being more Department focused rather than child and family focused, the development of a uniform practice model instills a department philosophy that emphasizes teaming with the families to ensures their needs are being met.
 - Using the Data Driven Decision Making Process and expanding the statistic measures to include a qualitative process when evaluating child welfare ensures that reporting is more reliable and representative of the child's quality of life. The data drives performance and performance influences outcomes.
 - In order to better equip staff on working with community partners, a portion of the "DCFS University" training will focus on how to best work with resource providers and also provide education to these partners to better understand the context of the Department's work.
 - The Objective Team members may be contacted nearing the end of January 2013 to attend their first meetings. The team meetings may initially meet on a weekly basis on a designated day of the week that works best for participants.

Director Browning added that the Strategic Objectives is a work in progress and may change as objectives are accomplished and realized.

The Commission thanked Director Browning for inviting Commission participation on the Strategic Objective Teams.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

7. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (12-5711)

There were none.

Announcements

8. Announcements for the meeting of December 17, 2012. (12-5714)

There were none.

Public Comment

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (12-5713)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

10. Adjournment of the meeting of December 17, 2012. (12-5716)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.